

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓  
Delete claims 5 and 7 without prejudice or admission.

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Please amend claims 1-4 and 6 as follows:

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AI  
1. (Amended) A wristwatch case comprising: an outer case attachable to a wrist band; and an inner case for housing a timepiece movement, the inner case being mounted to the outer case so as to be movable in a vertical direction relative to the outer case between upper and lower stop positions.

2. (Amended) A wristwatch case according to claim 1; further comprising a ring fixedly mounted within an opening provided in the inner case and having a rotation mechanism on a circumferential surface thereof for engaging the outer case when the inner case is in the lower stop position to prevent rotation of the inner case relative to the outer case and to permit rotation of the inner case relative to the outer case when the inner case is in the upper stop position.

3. (Amended) A wristwatch case according to claim 1; further comprising an elastic member extending between the inner case and the outer case for stopping movement of the inner case at the upper and lower stop positions.

4. (Amended) ~~A wristwatch case according to claim 2; wherein the ring has a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart rotation mechanisms.~~

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A2 6. (Amended) ~~A wristwatch case according to claim 2; wherein the outer case has a concave-convex-gear portion, and the ring has a portion elastically engageable with the concave-convex gear portion when the inner case is in the upper stop position to impart a click feel to the inner case during rotational movement thereof.~~

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Kindly add the following new claims 8-29:

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A3 8. A wristwatch case according to claim 1; wherein the inner case is disposed within an opening provided in the outer case.

9. A wristwatch case according to claim 1; wherein the inner case and the outer case have protrusions for limiting an extent of vertical movement of the inner case between the upper and lower stop positions.

10. A wristwatch case according to claim 1; wherein the inner case is rotatably mounted to the outer case.

11. A watch case comprising: an outer case; an inner case movably mounted on the outer case for sliding movement between upper and lower stop positions and for

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cont.

rotational movement when the inner case is in the upper stop position; and a ring fixedly mounted within an opening defined by the inner case and extending circumferentially around the inner case, the ring having one or more first portions engageable with the outer case to prevent rotational movement of the inner case when the inner case is in the lower stop position, and one or more second portions engageable with the inner case to cause the ring to undergo upward sliding movement when the inner case moves from the lower stop position to the upper stop position.

12. A watch case according to claim 11; wherein the ring has one or more third portions elastically engageable with a concave-convex portion of the outer case when the inner case is in the upper stop position to impart a click feel to the inner case during rotational movement thereof.

13. A watch case according to claim 12; wherein the ring has a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart first portions, second portions and third portions.

14. A watch case according to claim 12; wherein the one or more third portions each comprises an elastic protrusion.

15. A watch case according to claim 11; wherein the ring has a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart first portions and a plurality of circumferentially spaced-apart second portions.

16. A watch case according to claim 11; wherein the ring has one or more projections each received in a hole formed in the inner case to prevent rotation of the ring relative to the inner case.

17. A watch case according to claim 11; wherein the one or more first portions of the ring each comprise a toothed portion engageable with a concave-convex portion of the outer case.

18. A watch case according to claim 17; wherein the concave-convex portion of the outer case is located on a portion of the outer case extending into the opening defined by the inner case, and each toothed portion of the ring is located on an inner periphery of the ring.

19. A watch case according to claim 18; wherein the one or more second portions of the ring each comprise a lip portion engageable with a circumferentially extending wall portion of the inner case.

20. A watch case according to claim 19; wherein each toothed portion of the ring protrudes radially inwardly and each lip portion of the ring protrudes radially outwardly.

21. A watch case according to claim 20; wherein the ring has one or more third portions elastically engageable with a concave-convex portion of the outer case when the inner case is in the upper stop position to impart a click feel to the inner case during rotational movement thereof.

22. A watch case according to claim 21; wherein the one or more third portions of the ring each comprise an elastic protrusion which protrudes radially inwardly.

23. A watch case according to claim 22; wherein the ring has a plurality of first, second and third portions.

24. A watch case according to claim 23; wherein the third portions are alternately disposed around the circumference of the ring with respect to the first and second portions.

25. A watch case according to claim 24; wherein the first and second portions of the ring are disposed on lower and upper sides, respectively, of a plane passing through the ring.